

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

To:

BAHNG Hae Cheol  
KBK & ASSOCIATES  
15th Floor Yo Sam Building,  
648-23, Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu  
Seoul 135-080  
Republic of Korea

# PCT

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	29 June 2005 (29.06.2005)
-------------------------------------	---------------------------

Applicant's or agent's file reference AZ05-115WOWWW	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
--	---

International application No. PCT/KR 2005/001164	International filing date (day/month/year) 22 April 2005 (22.04.2005)	Priority Date (day/month/year) 23 April 2004 (23.04.2004)
---	--	--

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06F 39/08
---

Applicant

LG ELECTRONICS INC.

**1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:**

- ☒ Cont. No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Cont. No. II Priority
- ☐ Cont. No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Cont. No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Cont. No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Cont. No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Cont. No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Cont. No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

**2. FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

**3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.**

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ AT <b>Austrian Patent Office</b> Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna	Authorized officer <b>WININGER B.</b>
---	--

Facsimile No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535

Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 460

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/KR 2005/001164

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 15	YES
	Claims 1 - 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 15	YES
	Claims 1 - 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-15	YES
	Claims ----	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document DE 19841372 C1 comprises a float switch for a washing machine with a housing 1 which is divided in axial direction into two halves. The two halves are connected by a hinge 2 and locked with a click-stop device 5. A float 3 and a micro switch 4 are located inside the housing 1. The micro switch 4 is protected by a "1" shaped part of the housing 1. As shown by the figures 1, 2 and the description subject-matters of claims 1 - 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 are not new and do not involve an inventive step.

Document EP 1329546 A1 shows a flood-preventing device for a washing machine including a bottom tray R to collect a possible water leak from any component of the machine. The device has a float F in the tray R and a micro switch M which can be activated by the float F as soon as the water collected in the tray R causes the rising of the float F, both located in a cover N. Therefore the features of claims 1, 2 are embodied of document EP 1329546 A1.

In summary it can be ascertained that subject-matters of claims 1 - 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 are not new and do not involve an inventive step. Subject-matters of claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 15 are new and involve an inventive step.

Industrial applicability is given.